

<i>Situational Report</i>
COVID-19 Mandate Protests Operational Impacts
February 6, 2022 –16:00

Background

On January 15, 2022, an Order of Council (OIC) was put in place to mandate vaccinations for commercial truck drivers crossing the border. As a result, commercial truck drivers around the country have organized and started protesting outside port of entries (POEs) by blocking roads and slowing traffic, along with a convoy of commercial vehicles headed towards Ottawa to protest outside Parliament.

Bottom Line:

- Protest activity with potential impact to CBSA processing at Coutts, and Bluewater and Ambassador Bridge
- **Bluewater Bridge: February 6, 2022, as of 1550 ET, SOR reports that the blockade of 400+ vehicles appears to be dispersing. A majority of the farm tractors have departed Highway 402 near the Blue Water Bridge POE and returned eastbound on Highway 402. At present, approximately 30 vehicles remain on Highway 402. Social media comments encourage protestors to hold the line, although some messages indicated that the group was planning to disperse at 1800 ET.**
- **Ambassador Bridge: as of 1237 ET, the POE reported a Freedom Convoy of approx. 200 vehicles has made a first pass by the Bridge; there is no impact to operations.**
- **As of February 6, 1200 ET, CBSA processing continues at Coutts with low volume of traffic. US CBP is still metering northbound traffic, however this will be ending due to resource capacity. No impact to CBSA operations expected due to low volumes.**
- **Media reports that after crowdfunding platform GoFundMe withdrew support for the Freedom Convoy on February 4, 2022, citing reports of violence and harassment, the convoy shifted to Christian crowdfunding site Give Send Go. The new funding campaign had raised roughly \$2.4 million US out of a \$16 million goal by Sunday morning. Like the GoFundMe, many donors are identifying as from being outside Canada.**

Upcoming protest events:

Upcoming Events		
ONGOING	CONFIRMED	UNCONFIRMED
• Ottawa – February 6, 2022, Parliament Hill protest continues • Coutts – North and South bound traffic is flowing with one lane open in each direction and gates are open. US CBP is maintaining a checkpoint to meter traffic to proceed to the Primary Inspection Line. Protestors continue	• Ottawa – February 6, 2022, protests continue at Parliament Hill and downtown. • Sarnia Bluewater Bridge – February 6, 2022. Slow Roll convoy resulting in closure of westbound 402 highway near POE. No impact to Canada-bound traffic.	CANADA: • Ottawa – Several potential demonstrations (protests and counter protests) planned for February 5 and 6, 2022 • Ambassador Bridge – February 6, 2022. Convoy from the US destined to Bridge on the U.S. side US: • Washington, US Capital - February 8 and 9, 2022, US Freedom Convoy EUROPE:

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to line the highway north of the POE. • Quebec City – February 6, 2022, some Freedom Convoy protest demonstrators remain in the vicinity of the QC National Assembly buildings.	• Ambassador Bridge – February 6, 2022. Convoy in the vicinity of the POE. No impact to operations. • Halifax – February 6 – car/ truck protest event near Pier 21	• Brussels - Freedom Convoy Europe 2022 (Unconfirmed)
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US Protestors Identified at Port of Entries

- Reports received from CBSA POEs regarding Enhanced Vigilance Exams of potential protestors:

POE	Vehicle #	Enhanced vigilance exams (PAX #)	Direct Back	Allowed to Leave	Granted Entry	Comments
Pac Hwy Traffic, PAC	2	3	3	0		Wrong turns attempting to protest at Peace Arch Park.
Douglas, PAC	10	21	18	3		Wrong turns attempting to protest at Peace Arch Park.
Lansdowne, NOR	1	2			2	Journalists looking to document the protests in Ottawa. Provided necessary credentials and had equipment consistent with their stated purpose of travel.
Prescott, NOR	1	1			1	Unvaccinated Cdn citizen/US resident has been directed to quarantine by CBSA and PHAC
Sault Ste. Marie, NOR	2	2	1			• U.S. citizen attempting to join protest in Ottawa. • Feb 5: Cdn citizen expressing extremist views refused to comply with COVID entry requirements and ran the port
Total	16	29	22	3	3	

Atlantic Region

- As of 1300 ET, February 6, 2022, a slow-roll convoy to travel through Halifax Metro Region from 1300 to 1500AT. CBSA WCIU will avoid the convoy planned route.

Quebec Region

- No impacts to CBSA operations reported

Northern Ontario Region

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- As of 12:30 on February 6, 2022, regional I&E reports indices checks were completed on the subject of an enhanced vigilance exam who ran the port at Sault Ste. Marie POE with nil results, and traveller history confirmed. CBSA still has the subject's identification and a lookout has been issued. There have been no updates from partner agencies or POE.

Greater Toronto Area Region

- No impact to CBSA operations reported.

Southern Ontario Region

Blue Water Bridge

- February 6, 2022, as of 1550 ET, SOR reports that the blockade of 400+ vehicles appears to be dispersing. The majority of farm tractors have departed Highway 402 near the POE and returned eastbound on Highway 402. Approximately 30 vehicles remain on Highway 402. Social media comments from other encourage protestors to hold the line, although some messages indicated that the group was planning to disperse at 1800 ET.
- As of 1408 ET on 06 February 2022, Transport Canada reports:
 - Protest convoy in Sarnia has caused closure of Westbound Highway 402 between Highway 40/Modeland Road and Front Street. All lanes closed. Highway 402 traffic is fed by Highway 401 at London, therefore, signs are posted on the 401 indicating that the Sarnia border is closed.
 - From the Bluewater Bridge border point: Westbound Highway 402 remains closed. As a result, access to the USA is closed. Canada bound traffic remains open. Eastbound 402 also remains open.
- At 1318 ET, POE reported OPP has closed the 402 highway near the POE to all west / US bound traffic due to the convoy in the westbound lanes of the highway near the POE. Travellers are able to access the lanes to the US using local surface streets. Traffic travelling east into Canada is not impeded. There is no impact to CBSA operations at this time
Highway cameras link: <https://511on.ca/map#:MyRoutes>

Ambassador Bridge

- As of 1237 ET on February 6, 2022, the freedom convoy made its first pass of the Ambassador Bridge. The convoy consists of about 200 vehicles, with only 1 transport vehicle. There is no blocking of the operation, and thus no operational impacts. Media reports heavy traffic on Huron Church Road.

Prairie Region

Commercial Traffic Volumes

- No information to report

The CBSA temporarily expanded hours of service at two POEs in Alberta due to the ongoing protest and blockade in the immediate vicinity of the CBSA POE at Coutts, Alberta.

- [Carway, Alberta](#) – current temporary expanded hours: 0800 to 2200 MT (7 days per week);
- [Del Bonita, Alberta](#) – current temporary expanded hours: 0900 to 2200 MT (Monday to Friday)

CBSA and CBP are closely monitoring operations in Southern Alberta and may seek to expand operations to include Saturday and Sunday at Del Bonita should protest activity impede the highway north of Coutts.

As of February 6, 2022, CBSA Regional Director will discuss temporary expansion of hours of operation for Del Bonita & Carway with CBP for the week of February 7-11.

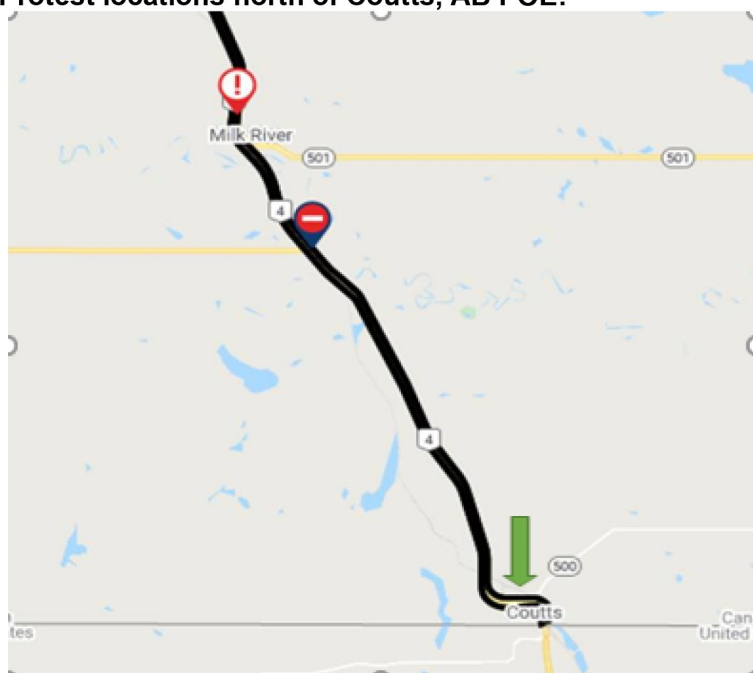
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Traders and commercial carriers will continue to be advised that three adjacent commercial ports of entry remain available at Regway SK, North Portal, SK and Roosevelt, BC.

Coutts

- As of February 6, 2022 at 1200ET, CBSA processing is continuing with no issues due to low volume of traffic. US CBP has notified that the metering of northbound traffic will be ending due to resource capacity. As the volumes are low, this is not expected to impact CBSA operations.
- As of February 6, 2022, at 1200ET, Checkpoint 10 (CP10 (Hwy 4/501) latest count is 270 private motor vehicles, 53 campers, 32 semis, 6 tractors, 400+ people. RCMP considering moving CP 10 closer to POE in an attempt to open up the 501 access.
- As of February 4, 2022, at 1730 ET, the region reports that there are two groups of protestors on the highway near the POE; the original group close to Coutts POE and the other at the intersection of Hwy 4 and 501. Both are allowing traffic through.

Protest locations north of Coutts, AB POE:



Note: The green arrow is the original protestors and the top indicates the RCMP and second group

Pacific Region

- No impact to CBSA operations reported

Intelligence and Enforcement

Intelligence Landscape

BLUF: As of February 6, 2022 at 1330 ET, the overall threat to CBSA officers and infrastructure is low.

ANALYSIS:

General Threats

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- **No change to posture.** According to the RCMP, no formal organized plot of violence has been identified. Factors such as the circulation of misinformation, exhaustion, substance abuse, altercations amongst protesters and with law enforcement and the influence of ideologically motivated actors or charismatic speakers may impact the temperature of the crowd. The potential for violence by a lone actor or fringe group cannot be discounted.
- Romana Didulo is now in Ottawa and was filmed burning a Canadian flag on Parliament Hill. Didulo is a QAnon online influencer with an estimated 73,000 followers in Canada and the US. Over the last 1.5 years Didulo has issued a series of anti-vaccination messages to her growing number of followers. Following her instructions some of her followers in both Canada and the US have been delivering fake "Cease and Desist" orders to government, law enforcement, health and education officials that they believe are involved in administering or enforcing COVID vaccinations or government mandated health restrictions. On November 10, 2021 an individual identified as **Personal Info.** hand delivered a fake "Cease and Desist" order to the BSOs working at the Carson POE in PAC region. "Cease and Desist" orders were also delivered in 2021 to the Carson, Cascade, Paterson, Waneta, Nelway, Rykerts, & Kingsgate POEs. Didulo refers to her armed followers as "Duck Hunters" and has previously urged her armed followers to kill individuals involved in administering the COVID vaccination program and also any individuals who enforce government mandated COVID restrictions or requirements for vaccination. On 2022-02-05 according to a video posted by POI Romana DIDULO, the "Kingdom of Canada" has been placed under martial law. **PPS-PI have identified through open sources messaging from POI Ramona DIDULO's Telegram account indicating that she will be "purchasing new equipment to prepare for Martial Law" and that **Person** **Personal Info.** will be uploading videos and livestreaming their activities on the "Kingdom's News" YouTube channel. Please see POE encounter below in the POE Threats section regarding a self-identified Didulo supporter which occurred at the Sault Ste. Marie POE on Feb 5th. CIG received reports that a member of the public who claimed to work for CBSA (unconfirmed) was at the Marriott/Hampton Inn near the old RCMP HQ and stated that she heard Queen Romana DIDULO/Queen of Canada was planning to bomb Parliament via the tunnel system. No other information was obtained as the complainant stated they had to go and drove off to possibly do security at the parking lot where the truckers have been staying all week next to the hotel. Vehicle plate was snow covered. CIG could not corroborate these claims at this time. RCMP INSET has been notified. CBSA NOR Intelligence continuing to monitor situation.**
- There is currently no confirmed end time for the demonstrations in Ottawa. With Ottawa police expecting additional convoys this weekend, an increased police presence has been approved with RCMP sending more officers to support OPS. Local citizens are also continuing to react to the disruption caused by the protest, with an online petition and possible counter-protests planned. The mounting frustration on both sides may lead to violent confrontations, which may pose a threat to the CBSA NHQ building located four blocks south of the Parliament Hill.
- There are an estimated 10,000 people in the downtown core, including 1,500-2,000 on Parliament Hill, and 1,000 on Wellington street and the surrounding area. Approximately 1,000 people are participating in counter demonstrations.
- Demonstrations also occurred at the Ottawa International Airport. Airport Authority confirmed they were aware of demonstrators on the ramp on the departure level (3rd floor). CBSA was not advised of any implications. No operational impact.
- RCMP reporting states: Canada-wide solidarity actions have occurred simultaneously with the demonstration in Ottawa and more are being planned for this coming weekend, some of which may affect Canada-US border operations (currently there are no reported operational impacts from the POEs). As the situation in Ottawa is receiving widespread coverage, actions in Ottawa may continue to influence impromptu events in other Canadian provinces.
- s.38
- **An event is planned February 6th, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in support of the trucker protests in Ottawa. The event is being organized at Pier 21 and is in close proximity to the CBSA Halifax Marine Centre of Expertise. The meeting place for the event is Pier 21 - 1055 Marginal Road, Halifax. The CBSA Marine Centre of Expertise (MCE) is located at 1061 Marginal Road, Halifax. There are no indications that CBSA**

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facilities are the target of the event. The MCE is not open on February 06th, and there are no CBSA employees attending work at that location currently.

POE Threats

- An ongoing analysis of SRT reporting, OSINT, s.38 [REDACTED] indicates that there are no credible threats currently identified for any POE.
- Information from the RCMP, the media and social media indicate that the protesters at Coutts discussed moving to Edmonton, perhaps influenced by a number of United Conservative Party MLAs who expressed their support for lifting COVID restrictions. Currently the protesters at Coutts have not left the area and are continuing their protests at Coutts and Milk River approximately 20 kilometres north of Coutts. Media reports indicate that the protesters have brought in supplies to continue the protests at the current locations.
- At approximately 10:25 ET on 06 February 2022, the Federal Bridge Corporation Land (FCBL) Security Operations Centre was alerted to a convoy heading down the 402 on the westbound side of the highway. As of 11:11 ET the convoy vehicles have begun to block all 5 lanes approaching the Toll lanes of the Blue Water Bridge on the Westbound side of the highway. One (1) Ontario Provincial Police cruiser is on site. Westbound 402 remains closed. As a result, access to the USA is also closed. Canada bound traffic remains open.
- The Freedom convoy has made its first pass of the Ambassador Bridge. The convoy consists of about 200 vehicles, with only 1 transport vehicle. There is no blocking of the operation, and thus no operational impacts.
- No update. Slow roll convoy took place in Niagara Falls on Feb 5th near the Rainbow Bridge at approximately 0945hours with 50-60 cars and pickup trucks looping past the POE a few times. Niagara Regional Police Service was monitoring the event; no impact to operations.
- Information from Sault Ste. Marie: At approximately 16:45 EST Feb 5th traveller [Personal Info.] arrived at the POE. [Person] admitted to not using the ArriveCan app pre-arrival and claimed she was not vaccinated during the primary interview. [Personal] expressed support for Romana Didulo stating "Queen Ramona has lifted all the mandates. The Trudeau Government has fallen and the Alliance is in charge. Queen Ramona has told us to report anyone who enforcing these mandates." When requested to park in [Personal Info.] CBSA Intel, Investigations after hours were contacted as well as local SSM Police and Local O.P.P. CBSA still has possession of the subjects CDN passport. No updates from partner agencies or POE. This is the first reported POE encounter with an individual expressing support for QAnon based extremist beliefs. Didulo has previously urged her supporters to conduct acts of violence against government officials enforcing COVID related mandates.
- Protesters from the Creston, BC and Cranbrook, BC areas met to peacefully protest federal COVID-19 mandates about 100 metres north of the Port of Kingsgate. An estimated 40-50 vehicles arrived to join this protest. Protest organizers agreed not to block traffic and keep the protest peaceful. No operational impact and no impact to Northbound or Southbound traffic was reported as of 1630 EST. Protest is expected to last for several hours.
- Freedom Rally Convoy that started in Vernon, BC approximately 175km north of Osoyoos, BC has arrived at the POE (approx. 1749 EST). Vehicles and protestors are parking along the highway approximately 200 meters north of the Port. Over 1,500 vehicles participated in the convoy. Protestors remained on site for approximately 2 hours (1930 EST). Protest was peaceful. A dump truck was placed across the highway to delay traffic. Once the protestors talked to the northbound and southbound traffic, they moved the dump truck and allowed traffic to proceed. Protestors are now leaving, this event is considered closed.
- At approximately 1435 PST (GMT-8) BSOs arrived at the Blackball Ferry to process the Coho for 1530 PST (GMT-8) ferry arrival. Traffic was slow to enter facility but vehicles were moving on the road to drive past the legislature (100-200 meters away) in support of the Freedom Convoy 2022. Many cars and semi's present, but no one specifically blocking the entrance to Canada from the ferry. No media observed at the time. Ferry traffic arrived at 1530 (light) with 15 cars and 5 foot passengers. Marine traffic was monitored and there were no AIS to suggest that there will be any marine blockage. Arrival was cleared by 1606 with no incident. The convoy traffic thinned out towards the end of processing and did not cause any delays. No operational impact. This event is considered complete.

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- Preliminary unconfirmed reports indicate a potential blockade at Fort Erie and Montreal starting on Sunday, 2022-02-06. The blockade plan is a co-ordinated effort by commercial trucks to block incoming laneways to CBSA and US CBP lanes at the POEs.
- Road closures will continue in downtown Toronto, police say, a day after large crowds in solidarity with the ongoing anti-mandate protests in Ottawa gathered in the city. There is no indication, at this time, that any protests occurred or are being directed to either of Toronto's major airports.
- No update. In addition to the event in Ottawa, a Mariners for Freedom vessel parade is being planned across Canada, reportedly aiming to "protest in ports and all over Canadian shipping lanes." The movement's Facebook page had gained over 7,000 members by 01 Feb, and an additional 5,000 members over the next few days. The event was planned for 04 Feb at participant ports, but currently there is no reporting to indicate that any marine protests took place. While disruptive activity was not considered for 04 Feb, consideration is being given to disrupting commercial marine transportation in future events should demands not be met.
- Personal Info.

Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE)

- No change to posture. According to the RCMP, while chatter encouraging peaceful and lawful protest continues to circulate, concerns exist that protest events associated with the convoy could be exploited by individuals who engage in or promote actions that pose a risk to public and officer safety. Please see POE encounter with a supporter of Romana Didulo at the Sault Ste. Marie POE on Feb 5th. This is the first reported POE encounter with an individual expressing support for extremist beliefs (QAnon). IMVE persons of interest and indicators have been observed in Ottawa.

Other Threats

- According to social media, the Ottawa Police Chief says that there is funding from the US as well as Canada fueling the protests. He is quoting national security sources who raise concerns about foreign funding as well. OSINT has multiple news articles stating that the Go Fund Me account has now been cancelled. All donors may submit a request for a full refund until February 19th, 2022. OSINT identified givesendgo.com/FreedomConvoy2022 as an alternative platform for donations. IG OSINT noted that the FreedomConvoy2022 campaign on GiveSendGo has raised 2,649,954 USD to date. The top donation was for 215,000 USD, from an anonymous donor. Of note, all contributions on this site are recorded in USD despite the location of the donor.
- Ongoing threat. The size, unorganized potential and general distraction of some these POE protests continue to create conditions where both criminal actors and migrants may use the events to illegally cross the border into Canada. This may also include protesters who wish to join events on the Canadian side of the border, but do not want to report to Border Service Officers.
- No update. US news sites are reporting that Facebook has removed the Facebook pages associated to "Convoy to D.C. 2022" being used to organize truckers to drive from California to Washington D.C. Media reporting states that Facebook has also removed the pages for the other planned US-based protest convoys originating in Texas and Florida. Social media and news websites in the US indicated that there is an online movement, which was focused on Facebook pages entitled "Freedom Convoy 2022", to organize protest convoys of US truckers from Texas and Florida which would converge on Washington D.C. with tentative planned arrival time in D.C. of February 8th. The organizers of Freedom Convoy 2022 reportedly moved their online operations to Telegram, with at least 28,000 individuals joining that Telegram page. There is no reporting at this time to indicate that the proposed US convoys plan to enter Canada.

Communications

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- On February 5, 2022, CBSA Media Relations received and responded to one media call asking for an update on the situation at Coutts. The same response used in previous calls was confirmed and used here.

Other Governmental Departments

- On February 6, 2022 at 1200ET, Partner agency reports the majority of the new trucks that arrived in Ottawa on February 5, 2022 left overnight; the remaining trucks have been in place since the beginning of the protest.
- As of February 3, 2022 – Transport Canada has issued NOTAMs for airspace restrictions over the following areas:

Parliament Hill - extended until February 7, 2022
 Queen's Park, Toronto - until February 9, 2022
 Coutts, (Milk River) Alberta – until February 9, 2022
 Quebec City – until Feb 8, 2022

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